

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 14, 17 and 19 have been amended.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

Applicant notes the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings as filed along with the present application on September 22, 2003.

Specification

The title of the application has been amended as "DATA REWRITING METHOD FOR FLASH MEMORY USING PARTIAL ERASES", as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the amended title, and withdraw the objection to the specification.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 4-8 and 14-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following

reasons.

Claims 4, 14 and 19 have been amended in view of the concerns raised by the Examiner, to be in better compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. With respect to the Examiner's comments regarding 2N, although not necessarily limited thereto, in the first embodiment N may be 16. Consequently, there may be 32 (2N) buffer sectors and 256 data sectors for example, which satisfies the features of being "at least N". In theory, there could be as few as 16 data sectors. The at least N sectors selected for erasing include N buffer sectors and 0 to N data sectors depending on the amount of duplication. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for at least these reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 1-3 are allowed. However, since claims 9-13 have not been rejected, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 9-13 are also allowed.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

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In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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